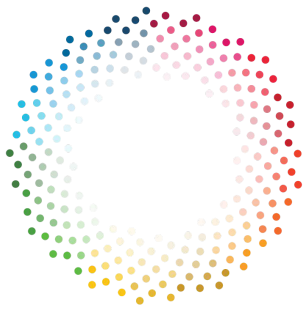




Safe and Fair

Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities through the SDGs



Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

Women make up almost half of migrants in the ASEAN region. They are largely concentrated in informal, low paid labour including in agriculture, manufacturing, domestic work, construction and entertainment. Irregular migrants and migrant domestic workers are at particular risk of violence, forced labour and trafficking due to their status and isolation.

SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 aim to address problems facing women migrant workers.




Safe and Fair migration means that women migrant workers:

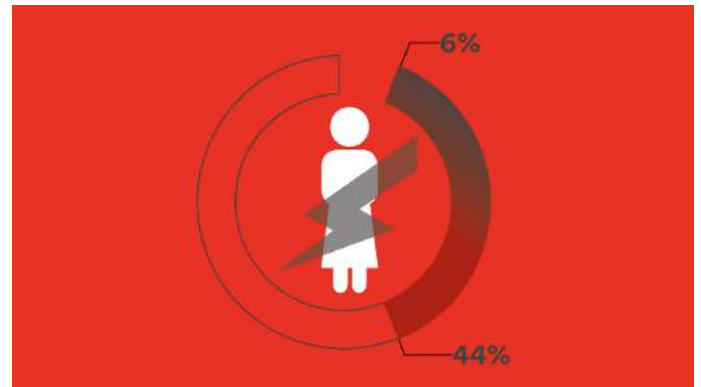
- are protected from **violence**, including **physical and sexual violence**, and **trafficking**, but also **psychological violence** and the **violence of exploitative labour conditions and migration processes**;
- have access to **survivor-centered responses** if they **experience violence**;
- have **gender equitable access, opportunity and conditions**;
- have their **fundamental rights protected** and have **real opportunities for decent work**.



SDG 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking



Women's lifetime experience of intimate partner violence ranges from 6 per cent to 44 per cent in the ASEAN region. Violence against women plays a significant role in migration – both in driving women into precarious migration pathways, and as part of migration and labour itself. Women migrants can face the risk of violence and abuse from intermediaries and employers, as well as from partners and others.



Issue: For survivors of violence against women and trafficking, services may not be well equipped to meet their needs, short term and not sustainable, challenging to reach, and not well coordinated among institutions.

Response: Building coordinated systems of survivor-centred essential services is necessary to ensure all survivors are treated with dignity regardless of nationality and migration status.

Issue: Myths around migrant women can lead to stigma and discrimination, including by the very people responsible for protecting victims of crime and delivering justice.

Response: Addressing stigma and discriminatory behaviour among front-line service delivery professionals is crucial to build their capacity to realize women migrant workers' equal rights to access services.

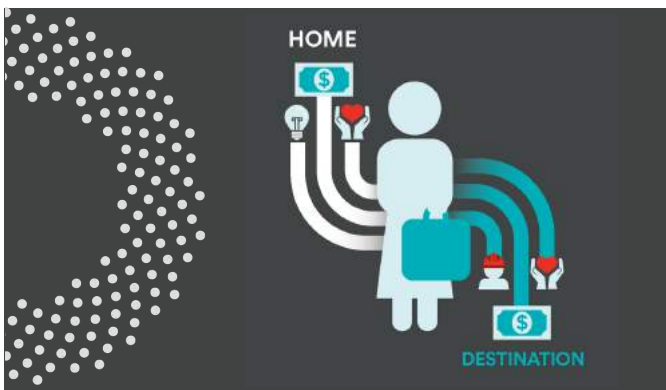


"Rape is something that only happens to 'low class' people, unducated or migrants."

- A justice official

SDG 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking

SDG 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants



Issue: Women migrant workers transform societies and economies through labour and contributions, often despite experiences of discrimination, exploitation and abuse.

Response: Increasing awareness of the realities and contributions of women migrant workers is necessary to change negative attitudes and behaviours towards them.

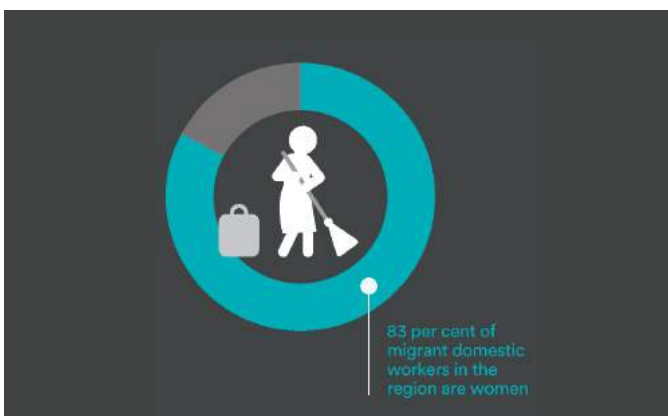
Issue: The gender wage gap between migrant men and women in ASEAN can be up to 24 per cent in manufacturing, construction and agriculture.

Response: Strengthening gender-responsive laws and policy, building the capacity of stakeholders, and strengthening the role of unions and migrant workers associations are all necessary in order to secure fairer working conditions for women migrant workers.



Issue: Migrant domestic workers face risks of exploitation, working in private households, often without clear terms of employment, frequently exposed to sexual harassment, violence and excluded from the scope of labour legislation.

Response: Recognizing domestic work as work is the first step to ensuring safe and fair migration for migrant domestic workers.



SDG 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



Issue: Across the ASEAN region, discriminatory policies seek to restrict the movement of women, as a method to protect them from the risks of migration. These policies have the effect of reducing women's access to regular migration options, resulting in women being redistributed into irregular migration channels, which in turn increases their risk to VAW, forced labour and trafficking.

Response: Building capacities of policy makers to understand the detriment of protectionist migration policies and the benefit of proactive gender-responsive policies, is necessary to strengthen access for women to regular migration opportunities that are safe and fair. The cost of migration continues to be high in several countries. Support to collection of information on the costs and finding ways to reduce them remain a priority for safe and fair migration.

The Safe and Fair will also contribute to **SDG Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, especially related to Indicator 16.2.2: **Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation.**

Contact

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